

SENATE BILL 794
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-6-104 and Section 8-24-102, relative to qualifications for the office of county mayor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-6-104(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The county mayor shall:

(1) Be a qualified voter of the county;

(2) Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age;

(3) Be a resident of the county for one (1) full year prior to the date of filing a nominating petition for election to such office; and

(4)

(A) Have a baccalaureate degree. This subdivision applies to any person elected to the office of county mayor in the August 2006 election and thereafter; provided, however, any person serving in the office of county mayor on August 1, 2006, who does not have a baccalaureate degree may seek reelection to such office and serve as county mayor as long as such person is continuously reelected. If a vacancy occurs in the office of a county mayor who does not have a baccalaureate degree, such vacancy shall be filled by a person having a baccalaureate degree, and the qualifications set out in this subdivision shall thereafter apply to such office.

(B) Each candidate for county mayor shall file an affidavit and such other evidence as the state coordinator of elections may require with the state coordinator of elections not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the qualifying deadline for candidates in the election. The state coordinator of elections shall certify to the county election commission that a candidate's qualifications are acceptable prior to the candidate's name being placed on the ballot, and such certificate of qualification must be filed with the candidate's qualifying petition prior to the qualifying deadline. Subject to approval by the secretary of state, the state coordinator of elections may promulgate rules to be followed by persons wishing to submit themselves for certification as qualified to seek the office of county mayor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.